

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03 AGR-20 PM-07

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P R 281215 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1883

INFO CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

13 AF CLARK AB PI/ LG

COMUSMACTHAI

PATMA FLD OFC THAILAND UTAPAO AFLD THAI

UTAPAO AFLD THAI/ LG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6474

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE AIRLIFT TO KOMPONG THOM AND SVAY RIENG

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 6312; (B) PHNOM PENH VKG#

DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF PLAN KHY TAING LIM ON JUNE 27
INDICATED THAT GKR IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS TO BEGIN KOMPONG
THOM AND SVAY RIENG AIRLIFTS JULY 1. MOBILIZING LOCAL ASSETS,
THREE DC-3 S, MAKING THREE SORTIES A DAY, WILL BE USED NINE DAYS
TO LIFT 200 TONS TO KOMPONG THOM FROM BATTAMBANG.

2. IN VIEW OF DISTANCES INVOLVED BETWEEN BETTAMBANG AND SVAY
RIENG WHICH WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF DAILY SORTIES PER AIRCRAFT,
WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE AIRLIFT FOR SVAY RIENG ORIGINATE
FROM KOMPONG SOM. FOUR DC-3 S, MAKING THREE SORTIES A DAY
FOR 30 DAYS, WOULD PROVIDE 960 TONS TO SVAY RIENG. THE
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INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT PRESENTLY BEING AIRDROPPED REFLECTS
REVISED ESTIMATES OF POPULATION AND NEEDS.

3. WE WILL MEET WITH KHY TAING LIM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 30
(JUNE 29 BEING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING) AND GET A
FINAL READING FOR PLANS FOR ACTIVATING THE AIRLIFT ON JULY 1.

4. NOTWITHSTANDING EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE GKR, WE BELIEVE
IT IS PURDENT TO BE PREPARED TO TURN TO AIR AMERICA SHOULD
THE GKR BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN HANDLING THE AIRLIFT TO SVAY
RIENG WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES. THEREFORE, WE WISH TO ALERT
ADDRESSEES TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MAY HAVE TO ACTIVATE
THE AIR AMERICA AIRLIFT FROM KOMPONG SOM TO SVAY RIENG.
PLEASE ADVISE IF APPROPRIATE AIR ASSETS ARE AVAILABLE TO LIFT
ALL OR PART OF THE MONTHLY REQUIREMENTS.

5. WE HAVE HAD NO REPLY TO OUR INQUIRY IN PARA 3, REF. B,
REGARDING AIR AMERICA WILLINGNESS TO CONTRACT WITH THE GKR.
IF AIR AMERICA IS NOT WILLING TO MAKE SUCH A CONTRACT,
REQUEST AUTHORITY TO USE AID FUNDS WHICH WOULD BE REIMBURSED
BY THE GKR EITHER WITH THEIR OWN RESOURCES OR THE ESF.
SWANK

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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